

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7521**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1319

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 10, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Date of Municipal Elections.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Smith M

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill moves elections of city and town officers to even-numbered years. The bill repeals superseded statutes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Election Commission (EC) would have authority to set rules for the drawing of precincts in municipalities that share incorporated areas between multiple counties. The EC would be able to incorporate precinct boundaries during regular scheduled business meetings.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary-* The municipal election of 2011 would be the last odd-year election, under the bill. Municipal offices would be elected in even-numbered years after December 31, 2011. Successors to certain municipal office holders that would be elected in 2011 would be elected in 2014 at the earliest. Municipal judges elected in 2011 would run for reelection at the 2016 general election. There would be cost savings to municipalities under the proposal. If a county currently runs a municipal election, there may be a savings to that county.

**Multiple County Municipalities-** For municipalities that have incorporated areas in more than one county, the county containing the greatest percentage of the municipality's residents would be required to establish the precincts in the municipality, supply those precincts with poll lists, and perform all other duties under election code as if the residents of the municipality from outside the county were residents of the county. Presumably, the savings from the cancellation of odd-year elections would be shifted to cover any

expenditures that would occur under this provision.

Background- Election expenses can include precinct election board per diem, rental of a facility for polling (if necessary), and/or voting equipment (if necessary.)

The following table shows the precinct election officers in a precinct election board as provided by law. The table also includes the average pay per election by each office:

Type of Officer	Number	Average Pay Per Election*
Inspector	1	\$129
Judge	2	\$97
Poll Clerk**	2	\$94
Sheriff**	2	\$106
Asst. Poll Clerk**	2	\$94
*Based on a survey of all counties with 57 responding. **May be eliminated by resolution of entire county election board.		

Certain counties pay the judge of the party opposite of the inspector more than the judge of the inspector's party. The additional pay compensates extra duties of the opposite party judge, who accompanies the inspector to drop off the election ballots and canvases after the polls close to the county election board office.

Many counties are not able to fill every position and several do not have assistant poll clerks. Additionally, counties may by resolution of the entire election board, discontinue sheriff and poll clerk appointments. Very few counties in the survey had assistant poll clerks or sheriffs.

Current Law For County Conducted Municipal Elections- County election boards are required, with some exceptions, to conduct a municipal primary and election. Expenses from county-operated municipal elections are reimbursed by the municipality to the county. If the expenses of a municipal primary or election cannot be directly attributed to a single municipality, the expenses are apportioned 25% to the county and 75% to the municipalities in the county holding an election.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Election Commission.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties that run municipal elections, municipalities.

**Information Sources:** Counties responding to an LSA survey on precinct election officer per diem.

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